

# THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

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We must now apologize to our patrons for the delay that has frequently happened in the publication of the Register. We hope that they will pardon it when we inform them that it has been beyond our controul, and engage that it shall not be, in future, except by some untoward accident, such as sublunary affairs must still be subject to. Hitherto it has been printed by contract, and no legal remedy to enforce the contract could relieve our work from the irregularity. We have now fitted up a printing office in a superior style, and henceforth take into our own hands all the care and responsibility of the publication. When all the arrangements are completed, we undertake to say that it shall excel, in elegance, any work of its class in America. From our position at the Metropolis of the nation, where the earliest and most correct statements of national affairs can be procured, and where access to the public documents is secured to us; and a general disregard of expenditure in every thing that might ensure the future value and comport with its present extensive and extending circulation, give the fairest ground to hope that it shall, in every respect, be worthy of its title. To mark the course of the great current of national affairs; the causes, character, and consequences of national measures; the influence of events; the extension of knowledge and wealth; to expose the wide, changeful, all important prospects that present themselves on our way; to catch the far land views that arise in our circumnavigation of the political world; the statesman's cares; the patriot's hopes, and fears, and happiness and pride; be these our duties: and haply, if "wisdom be power," though we may have no mite to contribute, when we "gather up the fragments" our zeal and labour may not be in vain. We have been compelled to exclude from this number some original articles on account of the voluminous documents which must be inserted.

## INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

It affords us much pleasure to find that some one has at last thought of proposing to Congress the subject of internal improvement. In a nation so tranquil, flourishing, and happy; whose resources are so exuberant, and whose territory is so vast, the necessity of internal improvement must be obvious to every mind. Its neglect has long been a matter of regret to those who are solicitous to see a full and fair experiment given to the system. If the United States continue at peace, as they now are, with the world, for any length of

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time, and there is every reason to believe such will be the case; they will soon be out of debt, and the greater portion of the surplus revenue will become useless, unless it be applied to the various public improvements. Our government has unquestionably been founded on the best principles of society; principles which tend to ameliorate the condition and to insure the happiness of man. A government thus happy in its operation and tendencies should, therefore, be aided by all the physical and moral resources of the country. From the nature of our institutions, and the novelty of our government, the world look to us for an example of political and moral excellence. Mankind, indeed, have a right to expect this example, and should we, by a species of national avarice and absurd economy, be inattentive to those great sources of public wealth, comfort, and happiness, we should disappoint their expectations, and be, perhaps, loaded with reproaches by posterity. As we are ourselves happy, let us, by becoming objects of imitation, endeavour to extend that happiness to the world. Let us set them an example that will excite their emulation, and stimulate them to rivalry. Perhaps no better opportunity than this will ever occur to commence and consummate these great national objects; and while the memory of the great father of his country is yet fresh on the minds of those to whom he has bequeathed the most valuable of legacies, let his solemn admonition be heard and obeyed. "Promote," says Washington in his valedictory address, "as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened." Institutions of this kind have been too much neglected by the nation, and other objects of minor importance have taken their place in the national councils. The promotion of these, however, forms but a part of what ought to be done for the prosperity of the country. Canals, roads, bridges, &c. should be particularly attended to by the national legislature, and every object of internal improvement, calculated to benefit the country, promoted and encouraged, while we repose in the lap of tranquility and enjoy the blessings of peace. On the subject of canals we know no better scheme than that which is contained in the report of Mr. Gallatin, and which we presume is before every member of Congress. The plan of Beaujour, in his sketches of North America, though similar in the outline, falls far short, in the details, of that able state paper. A perusal, however, of Beau-

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jour will be satisfactory, inasmuch as it will exhibit the opinion of an enlightened European on this subject. We should give an outline of his plan, had we room for that purpose.

It appears that some body from the west, a member of Congress, has proposed a repeal of the tax on spirits, as a substitute for the national university, and the other plans of public improvement now contemplated by the legislature. What is the use of learning if we can get whiskey cheap?

"Leese on us drink, thou gies us mere,

"Than either school or college;

"It kindles wit, and waukens lear,

"And pangs us fu' o knowledge,"

Says Burns.

If we can get drunk and feel wise and happy, the fancy will be better than any reality, because it can be obtained at a cheaper rate. There is always something unanswerable in the word *economy*. Come on then, ye jolly sons of "fat contented ignorance." Bacchus and Apollo are at war, as oft they have been; you may now, perhaps, decide the contest, "for ever and for aye;" the character of the nation must rest upon the success of the friends of literature or the friends of good liquor. Can you hesitate a moment, while the ghosts of ten thousand toppers walk unappeased among us?

"The ancient sects 'bout happiness,

"All differed in opinion:

"But the wiser rules of modern schools,

"In drink fix her dominion."

#### OWL CREEK BANK.

We published, in page 133 of the present volume, a letter from Mr. James Smith, announcing the establishment of the Owl Creek Bank of Mount Vernon, Ohio; of which institution he is the president. It appears that letter contained an error as to the amount of capital belonging to the bank. Instead of \$25,000, which was stated, the nominal capital is *two hundred and fifty thousand*; and of this, we are informed, that one hundred and fifty thousand is already sold. The directors refuse to sell any more stock at present, and are waiting for a charter from the present legislature of that State.

#### PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

*Extract of a Report of the late Secretary of the Treasury, to the President of the United States, accompanying a Message from the President to both Houses of Congress, made December 3, 1816.*

Read, and referred to the committee of the whole house on the state of the Union.

The Secretary of the Treasury has the honor to submit to the President of the United States the following general sketch of the finances, with re-

ference to the 1st of August, 1816, comprehending—

I. A view of the sources of revenue, and the objects of public expenditure.

II. A view of the fiscal measures during 1816.

I. *A view of the sources of revenue, and the objects of public expenditure.*

##### REVENUE.

The return of peace enabling the legislature to alleviate the burdens imposed by the necessities of the war, Congress, during the last session, discontinued, or reduced, the following duties and taxes:

1. The acts imposing duties upon articles of domestic manufacture, were repealed.

2. The acts imposing duties on furniture and watches, were repealed.

3. The duties imposed on licenses to retailers of foreign merchandise, &c. were repealed.

4. The duties imposed on spirits, distilled within the United States, were reduced, and the collection modified.

5. The rates of postage, were reduced.

6. The direct tax was reduced from 6,000,000 of dollars to 3,000,000 of dollars, and was imposed for one year only.

7. The double duties on merchandise imported were discontinued, and a new tariff established.

The discontinuance and reduction of the duties and taxes (independent of the impost) may be estimated at the annual amount of \$8,000,000; with the contingent diminution of \$3,000,000 more, if the direct tax should not be continued after the year 1816.

But, the remaining sources of revenue were ample for the maintenance of the public credit, and the prosecution of a liberal and provident policy. They consist,

1. Of the customs, including the duty upon salt, according to the new tariff of duties.

2. Of the direct tax imposed for 1816.

3. Of the internal duties on stamps; on licenses to retail; on spirits distilled; on refined sugar; on carriages and harness; on sales at auction.

4. Of Postage.

5. Of the product of fines, penalties and forfeitures, and other miscellaneous receipts.

6. Of the proceeds of the sales of public lands.

To these sources of revenue must be added the auxiliary authority to issue treasury notes of various denominations, and to receive money upon loan. The authority was necessary, in anticipation of the revenue, throughout the year 1815, to meet the arrearages of the war expenditures: to discharge the floating public debt of treasury notes and temporary loans, and to pay the instalments of the principal and the interest of the funded public debt. But the treasury would no longer require the aid of loans or treasury notes, if the facilities of transferring its funds from place to place, had not been destroyed when the national currency became extinct.

The committee of ways and means have heretofore estimated the annual product of the customs, according to the new tariff of duties, at about the sum of \$17,000,000, and although, for the present year, the amount will be much greater, in consequence of the late excessive importations, the estimate of the committee may be accepted as a just measure of the permanent annual product of the customs, for the purposes of a peace establishment. The annual product of the direct

tax, the internal revenues, and the sales of public lands, has, in like manner, been estimated at about the sum of \$7,000,000: making, upon this general view, and supposing a continuance of the direct tax, a permanent annual revenue of about \$24,000,000.

#### EXPENDITURE.

It is not intended, in this preliminary view of the objects of the public expenditure, to embrace the temporary objects arising from the war, but those only of a permanent nature, upon a peace establishment; and which have heretofore been estimated at an annual aggregate of about \$24,000,000.

1. For civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous expenses.
2. For military expenses, including the Indian department and the armament of the militia.
3. For the naval expenses, including the annual appropriations for the purchase of timber, and the gradual increase of the navy.
4. For the instalments and interests payable on the funded public debt.

It is proper to remark, that temporary loans and treasury notes, issued under the authority of acts passed prior to December, 1814, were charged on the sinking fund; but as the current revenue will afford the means to satisfy those demands, in the course of a few months, the floating debt is not enumerated with the objects of public expenditure.

It is also proper to remark, that the principal of the Louisiana stock is reimbursable at the Treasury of the United States in four annual instalments, commencing in 1818; and that, by the operation of the sinking fund, the old six per cent. stock will be extinguished in 1818; the deferred stock in 1824; and the Louisiana stock in 1822. The stock created on account of the war debt is charged upon the sinking fund, and becomes redeemable at various periods between the years 1825 and 1828.

For the details connected with this general view of the sources of revenue, and the objects of public expenditure, it is sufficient to refer to the annual report from the Treasury Department, dated the 6th of December, 1815; the report on the subject of the new tariff of duties, dated the 12th of February, 1816; and the report of the committee of ways and means, dated the 9th day of January, 1816. The sequel of the present sketch of the finances will, likewise, serve the purposes of explanation and illustration.

#### II. A view of the fiscal measures during 1816.

In various communications from this department to Congress, the injurious effects of the suspension of payments in coin, upon the administration of the finances, have been anxiously represented. For the immediate object of the present statement, it is proper to repeat some of them.

1. The Treasury has been compelled to accept the payment of duties and taxes in the local currency of the respective places of payment.

The comparative value of the local currencies appeared, in some degree, to render this course of payment unequal; but the alternative was either to adopt it, or to abandon the hope of collecting the revenue in any convertible medium, for satisfying the public engagements. The rule was, therefore, declared that the Treasury would receive and pay, in the notes of banks circulating at par, at the respective places of receiving and paying. For a time, the test of the fact, that the

notes did circulate at par, was the agreement of the banks employed as the depositories of the revenue, to credit them as cash in the Treasurer's accounts. But when the principal banks withdrew that accommodation, and refused to credit as cash any bank notes but those which they had themselves respectively issued, the fact of the circulation at par was necessarily left to its own notoriety, and to the official responsibility of the collectors. Few notes, except the notes of the local banks, continued to circulate at par; and such as did so circulate, were received by the banks, upon special deposit, for safekeeping; constituted a discredited fund, upon which the Treasurer could only occasionally draw.

The operation of this measure was, undoubtedly, severe in many of the collection districts; particularly in the States where the banks, preparing for the resumption of coin payments, had so reduced the issues of their paper as to render the circulating amount insufficient for the demand. But it was not in the power of the Treasury to dispense with the general rule. If notes not circulating at par had been received in one district, they must have been received in every district; and there existed no mode of discriminating between notes to be received and notes to be rejected, either as to the bank or the place at which they were issued. The inevitable consequences must have been that the duties and taxes would every where be paid in the most depreciated paper; and that the medium thus received could never be employed to discharge the demands upon the Treasury, even at the places of receiving it. The revenue would accumulate in the Treasury only to perish there; while the expedient of substituting treasury notes to meet the public engagements, led to an indefinite augmentation of the national debt.

2. The Treasury has been compelled to augment the amount of the national debt, both funded and floating, by issues of treasury notes to meet the public engagements at places where it could not command the local currency. Throughout the eastern States the Treasury has hitherto failed to command an amount of the local currency equal to the amount of the local demands. The banks of those States, fettered by the stipulations of their charters, could not follow the example of the banks of the other States in the suspension of coin payments; but their issues of notes have been very limited, and the necessities for a circulating medium have been principally supplied by treasury notes, and, partially, by the notes of the banks of New-York. Under these circumstances the revenue, in the eastern section of the Union, has been almost entirely collected in treasury notes. Inferior difficulties, from similar causes, have occurred in some of the southern States; where, also, the accruing revenue was less in proportion to the demands, which the arrearages of the war, as well as the current expenditures, pressed upon the Treasury.

From these considerations, it is obvious that the public credit could only be maintained, and the public service could only be effected (even with an ample revenue) by the use of the auxiliary means afforded to the Treasury, in the authority to borrow money, and to issue Treasury notes. Little use, however, has been made of the authority to borrow since the closing of the loan of 1815; but the warrants of the War and the Navy Departments, as well as the dividends payable on



the public funded debt, have required a considerable issue of Treasury notes. The Treasury notes bearing interest, and fundable at 6 per cent. have been generally disbursed in payments for services and supplies; and the treasury notes, not bearing interest, but fundable at 7 per cent. have been generally disbursed in payments on account of the funded debt, and the compensation of the members of Congress. The effect of these measures will be more particularly stated hereafter.

Thus, it cannot escape observation that a cause, unconnected with the late war, and which exists without the agency or the authority of the government, will probably so augment the amount of the funded debt as to render nugatory the estimates and calculations which have been made on other occasions, in relation to that subject. The restoration of an uniform national currency, can alone terminate this evil.

3. The Treasury has been involved in the difficult and delicate task of designating the medium in which the warrants drawn by the heads of Department should be respectively paid.

The revenue is collected throughout the Union; but the amount of the collection is very different, in different places; and it has happened, not unfrequently, that the demand for payment was the greatest when the means of payment were the least.

The rule which has already been mentioned was applied wherever it was practicable, by directing warrants to be paid at the places of rendering the services, or furnishing the supplies, for which they were respectively granted. But if the treasury possessed no funds at those places, the differences of exchange rendered it extremely difficult to locate the payment of the warrants in a manner equitable, impartial, and satisfactory. For some months after the war, the treasury was scantily supplied with the local currency of every place, except the District of Columbia and the city of Baltimore; and consequently, during that period, the warrants which could not be discharged at the seat of the original transaction were paid in the currency of the District, or of Baltimore. The progressive accumulation of the revenue opened a wider scope for payments, enabling the treasury to draw next upon the banks of Philadelphia, and more recently, upon the banks of New-York. The public funds in the banks of the southern and western States, having also become generally adequate to the local demands, it may now be considered that the active resources of the treasury are co-extensive with the Union, excepting always the eastern section. The difficult task of locating the payment of warrants still, however, continues, and must continue, as long as the differences of exchange shall operate. It is fiscally impossible to pay all the demands upon the treasury at one place; and every holder of a warrant is naturally desirous to be paid at the place where the medium is of the highest current value. Under such circumstances, it is to be expected that individuals will sometimes feel disappointment, and express dissatisfaction; but it has been the constant and anxious endeavor of the treasury to perform its arduous task, with the exercise of a sound discretion, guided by the requisitions of the departments, by the origin and nature of the debts, and by the state of the public funds.

4. The treasury has been compelled to increase the number, and extend the range of banks employed as the depositories of the public revenue,

with consequences unavoidably inconvenient and injurious.

As soon as the differences of the current value of bank notes were introduced, and particularly when one bank refused to credit, as cash, a deposit of the notes of another, the treasury was driven to a choice of expedients; that is, either to take the hazard of the accumulation of masses of revenue in the hands of individual collectors and receivers, or to recognize, as places of deposit, the banks (being, however, banks of unquestionable solidity,) established in the districts which were most affected by the course of exchanges. Many powerful reasons led to an adoption of the latter measure; instructions were issued to the collectors and receivers to act accordingly; and the number of banks thus necessarily employed by the treasury, from Maine to Louisiana, may be stated at ninety-four.

To the inconveniences incident to this multiplication of the places of deposit, was added the complexity inevitably arising from the various kinds of paper in circulation as money, upon some of which minute calculations were required. Generally speaking, the treasury has with each bank four accounts:

An account of cash, meaning (in the absence of coin) the local currency.

An account of special deposits of bank notes, being notes issued by banks, other than the depository.

An account of special deposits of treasury notes, bearing interest.

An account of deposits of small treasury notes, not bearing interest.

Owing to this untoward condition of the machinery for the collection, custody, and distribution of the revenue; to the great extension of the business of receipts and expenditures; and to several accidental causes; the punctual statement and settlement of the treasurer's accounts have not been found practicable. To expedite and facilitate, however, the accomplishment of that object, proceedings have been instituted to withdraw the treasury notes from the banks for the purpose of cancelling them; to ascertain the character of the Bank notes upon special deposit, for the purpose of claiming payment, or an effective credit, from the Banks which issued them; and to induce the banks of the interior to a transfer, from time to time, the Treasurer's balances, to the banks of the commercial cities on the Atlantic, for the purposes of a periodical settlement. The success of these proceedings, the operation of the bank of the United States, the collection of the revenue in the lawful currency; and, above all, the improvements contemplated by Congress in the constitution of the department; are objects of high and urgent importance, demanding constant vigilance and care.

The successive attempts made by this department to relieve the administration of the finances from its embarrassments, have been ineffectual.

There was no magic in a mere treasury instruction to the collectors of the revenue, which could by its own virtue, charm gold and silver, again into circulation. The people, individually, did not possess a metallic medium, and could not be expected to procure it, throughout the country, as well as in the cities, by any exertion, unaided by the banks. And the banks, too timid, or too interested, declined every overture to a co-operation, for reinstating the lawful currency. In this state of

things, the treasury, nay, the legislature, remained passive. The power of coercing the banks was limited to the rejection of their notes in the payment of duties and taxes, and to the exclusion of their agency in the custody and distribution of the revenue; but the exercise of that power would not generate a coin currency, although it would certainly act oppressively upon the people, and put at hazard every sum of money, which was due the government. Until, therefore, a substitute was provided for the paper of the banks, it would have been a measure of useless and inpolitic severity towards the community, to insist that all contributions to the expenses of the government should be paid in a medium, which, it is repeated, the community did not possess, and could not procure.

The opinion here expressed has been the opinion of all the States except the eastern States. In the southern and western States, the payments in coin had been suspended; and in most of them the notes of the local banks constituted the general circulating medium: for the treasury note medium circulated, almost exclusively, in the commercial cities. The obvious difference between the situation of the eastern section and of the other sections of the Union, naturally produced a difference of interests and of dispositions upon the question of resuming payments in coin. The eastern section urged the measure at all hazards. The other sections, and particularly the middle section, objected to it; each bank professing, nevertheless, a willingness to adopt it, upon a simultaneous and general movement of the banks, directed to that object. With respect to the eastern section, a peremptory requisition for a return to payments in coin, would have left the circulating medium for the ordinary uses of the people much the same in quantity and kind, whether the distant banks conform to it or not. But with respect to the other sections, such a requisition, if the local banks did not conform to it, must have deprived the people of their only means of paying the public taxes, and of transacting the pecuniary business of life. It was not, then, an insensibility to the pernicious course of banking which had of late been pursued, nor a disposition to relinquish the cardinal policy of restoring the lawful national currency, that induced this department, during the year 1815, to acquiesce in the state of the currency, such as it was found when the present Secretary was appointed, and such as it had been left by Congress, after the deliberations of a six months' session; but the acquiescence, painful as it was, proceeded entirely from a sense of duty to the government and of justice to the community; from a solicitude to preserve the public revenue, as well as to prevent private distress: and from a conviction that the legislative wisdom and authority were alone competent to provide the means of removing the great evil that existed, without incurring the danger of introducing a greater evil.

The result of the proceedings of the last session of Congress has justified the opinion and realized the hopes which were formed. The establishment of the bank of the United States will open the sources of an uniform currency, independent of the State banks; and, as the people will be thus supplied with a medium which can be used for every public and private purpose, the peremptory requisition of the resolution of Congress for the collection of the revenue in the lawful money of the United States after the 20th of February, 1817, becomes, at once, just, politic, and practicable.

The steps which were taken to organize the bank of the United States, the early and satisfactory completion of the subscriptions to its capital, and the advertisement appointing the 28th of the ensuing October for the election of directors by the stockholders, have been heretofore communicated to the President, together with the letter which was addressed to the bank commissioners at Philadelphia, recommending that they should provide a place and the materials proper and requisite for commencing the operations of the institution as soon as the directors shall be chosen. The general solidity of the subscribers, as capitalists, and the extensive distribution of the stock throughout the Union, have confirmed the public hope and confidence in the competency of the bank to accomplish the great objects for which it is established.

As soon as it appeared, upon a reasonable calculation, that the subscription to the capital of the bank of the United States would be filled, a proposition was offered to the consideration of the State banks for commencing the payments of small sums in coin on the first of October next, upon the principles, which, with the approbation of all the members of the administration, were stated in the report made to the President on the 24th of June, 1816. The terms of the resolution of Congress seemed indeed to require, from the Treasury Department, an effort to facilitate the restoration of the lawful currency, even before the 20th of February, 1817; and short of a general return to that currency, nothing was thought more likely to be acceptable and useful than the proposition in question. But the effort has failed. The State banks, with few exceptions, have deemed a partial resumption of coin payments inexpedient; and the banks of the middle States (New-York, Pennsylvania and Maryland) have intimated that the first of July, 1817, will be the proper period for resuming the banking operations on the basis of a metallic capital.

The rejection of the Treasury proposition is regretted. Upon principle, there is no good reason why a debtor should not pay a part of his debts, although he cannot pay the whole; nor why he should refuse to pay his small debts, because he cannot pay the large. Upon experience, banks (for instance, at this epoch, the bank of England) have been in the practice of paying coin for their notes of a low denomination, while they refused that kind of payment for notes of a high denomination. And upon policy, it is clear that the payment of small notes in coin would soon beget confidence in bank paper of any amount; and, consequently, render a general payment in coin easy and safe.

The quantity of small notes abroad, the probability of a run through that medium upon the banks, and all the terrors which bankers and brokers may feel or imagine, will furnish no argument against the proposition for a partial resumption of coin payments at this time, which will not be more forcible against a general resumption at all times. But it is impossible to pass from disease to health, without some suffering; and the banks cannot expect to recover from the disorders of the present banking system without encountering risks and impairing profits. The rejection of the proposition has, however, constrained the Treasury to limit its exertions to preparatory arrangements for the general collection of the revenue in the lawful currency after the day prescribed by the legislature.

But referring the period for a general resumption of payments in coin to a day so distant as the first of July, 1817, (several months subsequent to the time prescribed by Congress for the collection of the revenue in the lawful currency, as well as to the time when the operations of the banks of the United States might be expected to commence) is a measure of the most serious character; indicating a dangerous reliance of the State banks upon a change in the policy, or a relaxation in the energy of the legislative authority. Its effects, if unresisted, or if fostered by a temporising disposition on the part of the government, must be to embarrass the bank of the United States in the onset; to confine the issues of the notes of the national bank to the amount of the coin in its vaults; to deprive the people of the means of complying with the resolution of Congress for the collection of the revenue in coin; and to preserve to the State banks an illegitimate control over the money and currency of the nation. To the wisdom, patriotism, and virtue of Congress, therefore, an appeal must be made; nor can it be supposed that the State authorities will remain insensible to so calamitous a state of things. The powers of the government, vigorously and steadily exercised, are ample for redress and relief, and it is yet to be hoped that the State banks will perceive and avoid the ruinous consequences to which the threatened conflict inevitably exposes them.

The second instalment of the subscription to the bank of the United States being paid; the price of gold and silver being obviously in a rapid course of reduction; the means possessed by the banks to reinstate their metallic capital being faithfully applied to that object; a spirit of mutual conciliation and good will actuating the national and State institutions; and in short, a solid foundation for public confidence being thus laid, what have the State banks to apprehend from a return to coin payments when the national bank shall commence similar payments, (say in January next) or when similar payments shall be exacted from the people in the collection of duties and taxes on the 20th of February, which will not be equally operative on the 1st of July, 1817? The sincerity and the honor of the directors of the State banks, who have proposed the last date as the proper period for the all important reform contemplated, will not be impeached or doubted; but there is no legal obligation to conform to the proposition; and the occurrence of new incidents, or the perception of other views, may hereafter be thought to justify a change of council and of conduct. There is then no security for the government or the community, but in the inflexible adherence to the system which Congress has adopted.

Having reviewed the general course of the Treasury, as connected with the state of the currency, it becomes proper to exhibit more particularly the fiscal results: 1st, In relation to the appropriations and payments for the year 1816; 2dly, In relation to the receipts at the Treasury in 1816; 3dly, In relation to the public debt; and 4thly, In relation to the miscellaneous business of the department. It must, however, be remembered that until the accounts of the Treasurer shall be finally balanced and settled, the statements which have been officially furnished by the register for the immediate purposes of the present report, are to be regarded in the light of estimates, subject to such changes as the ultimate examination of the accounting officers may produce. But

it is not believed that any essential variance will occur.

*1st. Of the Appropriations and Payments for 1816.*

The demands authorized by acts of appropriation to be made on the Treasury for the year 1816, independent of the unsatisfied balances of appropriations for former years, not carried to the surplus fund, amounted to the sum of

\$ 32,475,393 93

For the civil department, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous expenses, the sum of 3,540,770 11

For the military department, 7,794,250 75

Arrearages,

8,935,372 00

16,729,622 75

For the naval establishment,

4,204,911 00

For the public debt, 8,000,000 00

32,475,393 93

The payments made at the Treasury on account of the above appropriations, stated to the 1st of August, 1816, amounted to the sum of \$ 26,332,174 89

For the civil department, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous expenses, 1,829,015 02

For the military department, 4,235,236 75

Arrearages,

8,935,372 00

13,170,607 75

For the naval department,

1,977,788 50

For the public debt, (\$1,354,762 62 being part of the balance of the preceding year's appropriation)

9,354,762 62

26,332,174 89

The unexpended balance of appropriations for 1816, being the sum of

\$ 6,143,129 04

To be credited, however, with the sum of 1,354,762 62, taken as above stated from the last year's balance of the appropriation for the public debt.

But it is estimated that the demands on the Treasury from the 1st of August to the 31st of December, 1816, will amount to the sum of

\$ 12,413,524 33

For the civil department, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous expenses, 1,629,494 90

For the military department, 3,579,236 66

For the naval department,

2,986,432 77

For the public debt, including the payment to be made on the 1st

of January, 1817, 4,218,360 00

12,413,524 33

And the unexpended balance of the appropriations for 1816, amounting only as above stated to the sum

6,143,129 04



There is a general deficit in the appropriations, for which provision must be made by law, amounting to the sum of

6,270,395 29

Connected with these statements, it may be useful to add, that of the appropriations granted prior to the 1st of January, 1816, there remained on that day, unexpended, the sum of \$7,972,277 86

For the civil department, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous expenses, 2,562,363 51

For the military department, 20,222 66

For the naval department, 759,310 27

For the public debt, 4,630,381 42

7,972,277 86

And at the end of the year 1816, the appropriation for the military department, the naval department, and the public debt, will, probably, be exhausted; but there will remain an unexpended balance of the appropriations for the civil department, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous expenses, estimated at about the sum of \$2,642,623 77

#### 2d. Of the Receipts of the Treasury, 1816.

It is not within the scope of this report to enter into the details of that portion of the revenue which has accrued, but has not become payable; nor to distinguish between the amount produced under the old, or war, and under the new, or peace, system of revenue. The main object is to exhibit the actual receipts of revenue at the treasury from the 1st of January, to the 1st of August, 1816; and which have arisen from the following sources:

1. From cash in the treasury, (deducting an item of \$6,692,407 55 in treasury notes, which had been paid for duties and taxes;) stated as subject to the future settlement of the treasurer's accounts, at, \$6,298,652 26

2. From revenue, including what was outstanding at the commencement of the year, to wit:

Customs, subject to a deduction of \$1,829,564 33 for debentures paid during the same period, 21,354,743 74

Direct tax, independent of the assumed quotas \$6,050,000 00

Assumed,

(after deducting 15 per cent.) by

N. York, 365,620 38

Do. by Ohio, 88,527 62

Do. by South-Carolina, 129,119 66

Do. by Georgia, 80,696 02

Internal duties, 3,713,963 68

Postage and incidental receipts, 127,025 38

Sale of public lands, excluding \$211,440 50

received in the Mississippi Territory, but to be paid to Georgia, 676,710 40

29,736,443 20

Total amount of receipts from revenue and cash in the treasury, 36,035,095 46

#### 3. From loans and treasury notes.

Loans, 6 per centum stock of 1814, 204,889 23

Do. do. 87,902 08

Loans, 6 per centum stock of 1815, 335,447 90

Loans, 7 per centum stock by the issue, re-issue, and sale of small treasury notes which were funded, 4,289,089 00

Total amount of receipts from loans, 4,917,328 21

#### Treasury Notes.

Of the new emission bearing interest, 2,868,900 00

Of small treasury notes, 2,004,597 00

Total amount of receipts from treasury notes, 4,873,497 00

45,825,920 67

Making the amount received into the treasury, from the 1st of January to the 1st of August, 1816, (including the cash in the treasury at the former date) the sum of 45,825,920 67

And it is computed that between the 1st of August and the 31st of December, 1816, there will be further received at the treasury, the sum of \*19,876,710 40

Making the whole of the estimated receipts of the year 1816, the sum of 65,702,631 07

#### SUMMARY.

First. (1) From the foregoing estimates and statements, it appears that the receipts at the treasury (including the cash on deposit at the commencement of the year) from the 1st of January to the 1st of August, 1816, may be stated (subject to such alterations as shall occur on the final settlement of the treasurer's accounts) at 45,825,920 67

(2) And that the payments at the treasury for the same period, may be stated at 26,332,174 89

Making an excess of receipts beyond the payments at the treasury, from the 1st of January to the 1st of August, 1816, of 19,493,745 78

Second. (1) From the foregoing estimates and statements it appears, that the receipts at the treasury, as above stated, from the 1st of January to the 1st of August, 1816, (excluding the amount

\* From the Customs, 16,500,000 00  
the Direct Tax, 1,000,000 00  
the Internal Revenue, 1,500,000 00  
the Sale of Public Lands, excluding the receipts in the Mississippi Territory, to be paid to the State of Georgia, 675,710 40  
Postage and Incidental Receipts, 100,000 00  
19,876,710 40

in the treasury on the first date) have amounted to

39,527,268 41

(2) And that the probable receipts at the treasury, from the 1st of August to the 31st of Dec. 1816, may be estimated at

19,876,710 40

Making the whole of the estimated receipts of the treasury, for the year 1816, exclusive of the cash in the treasury on the 1st of January, the sum of

59,403,978 81

(3) But from the foregoing statements it also appears that the payments at the treasury, from the 1st of January to the 1st of August, 1816, amount to the sum of

26,332,174 89

(4) And that the demands on the treasury, from the 1st of August to the 31st of December, 1816, are estimated at

12,413,324 33

Making the whole of the estimated payments and demands in the treasury for the year 1816, the sum of

38,745,499 22

And leaving an excess of the estimated receipts beyond the estimated payments and demands at the treasury, for the year 1816, (exclusive of the sum in the treasury on the 1st of January, 1816, amounting to

20,658,179 59

A general statement of the sums paid monthly at the custom houses for duties on merchandises imported into the United States, and of the sums repaid monthly upon debentures, issued for the drawback of the duties on importation, has been prepared, embracing the period from March, 1815, to July, 1816, both months inclusive. From this document it appears:

(1) That the aggregate of the duties received at all the custom houses of the United States, during the above specified period, amounts to the sum of

28,271,143 50

(2) That the aggregate of the debentures paid during the same period amounts to the sum of

2,624,421 66

Leaving the amount of duties for the above specified period (subject only to a deduction for the expenses of collection) at the sum of

25,646,721 84

(3) That the aggregate of the duties received at all the custom houses of the United States from March to December, 1815, both months inclusive, amounts to the sum of

6,916,399 76

(4) That the aggregate of the debentures paid during the last mentioned period, amounts to the sum of

794,857 83

Leaving the amount of duties for the last mentioned period (subject only to a deduction for the expenses of collection) at the sum of

6,121,542 43

(5) That the aggregate of the duties received

at all the custom houses of the United States from January to July, 1816, both months inclusive, amounts to the sum of

21,354,743 74

(6) That the aggregate of the debentures paid during the same period, amounts to the sum of

1,829,564 33

Leaving the amount of duties for the last mentioned period (subject only to a deduction for the expenses of collection) at the sum of

19,525,179 41

The districts of the United States have contributed in very different proportions to the results in the collection of the customs which have been thus generally stated. The following abstract will afford a comparative view of the importations into some of the principal districts (those whose importations have produced duties exceeding 400,000 dollars) from March, 1815, to July, 1816, both months inclusive.\*

Districts.	Duties.	Debentures.	Revenue, (subject only to the expenses of collection.)
New-York,	9,926,188 30	933,394 65	8,992,793 65
Philadelphia,	5,085,206 65	423,636 72	4,661,569 93
Boston,	3,579,130 77	477,487 91	3,101,642 86
Baltimore,	3,339,101 11	390,633 43	2,948,467 69
Charleston,	1,047,546 73	86,392 49	661,154 24
New-Orleans,	732,683 13	15,669 02	716,414 11
Savannah,	521,387 58	3,690 85	517,597 02
Norfolk,	491,180 36	10,364 65	471,785 71

#### 3d. Of the Public Debt.

In a supplement to the annual treasury report of December, 1815, made to the House of Representatives on the 28th of February, 1816, it appears that the balance of the whole of the public debt, contracted prior to the late war, amounted on the 12th of February, 1816, to the sum of

\$ 38,335,832 58

The amount which has since been reimbursed of the principal of the old 6 per cent. and deferred stocks, besides the payment of the interest, is the sum of

556,558 26

And at this time the balance of the whole of the public debt, contracted before the late war, amounts to the sum of

\$ 37,779,274 32

In the same supplemental report it further appears, that the estimated amount of the whole of the public funded debt, contracted in reference to the late war, amounted, on the 12th of February, 1816, to the sum of

\$ 68,374,764 94

To this amount there has been since added the following items:

1st. In six per cent. stock, to pay the bank of South Carolina, according to the contract for a loan made to general Pinkney under the authority of the War Department, the amount being included in the appropriations for the military service,

43,956 04

2d. In six per cent. stock, to pay the Union Bank of Charleston, \$.

\* This statement exhibits the amount of money actually paid into the Treasury at those ports, and not the amount of duties which accrued during that period.



Carolina, according to the contract for a like loan, the amount being included in the appropriations for the military service,

43,956 04

3d. In six per cent. stock of 1815, in lieu of treasury notes funded at 95 per cent. under the loan of 1815, and which thus operates to reduce the amount of the floating debt,

385,447 90

4th. In six per cent. stock in lieu of treasury notes funded at par, (as far as has been ascertained) and which thus operates to reduce the amount of the floating debt, estimated at

9,200 31

5th. In seven per cent. stock in lieu of small treasury notes funded at par, (as far as has been ascertained) and which thus operated to reduce the amount of the floating debt, estimated at

4,289,089 00

Amount of the addition since the 12th of February, 1816, to the public funded debt, contracted in reference to the late war,

4,721,649 29

Estimated amount of the whole of the funded debt at this time, contracted in reference to the late war,

73,096,414 23

In the same supplemental report it appears that the amount of the floating public debt on the 12th February, 1816, was estimated at the sum of

\$ 16,920,115 41

To this sum there have been since added the following items:

1. There has been issued and re-issued small treasury notes, as is estimated at

2,004,597 00

2. There have been issued treasury notes, bearing interest, as estimated at

2,868,900 00

3. There have been obtained, temporary loans from the banks in the District of Columbia, under the act providing for the re-construction of the public buildings, in addition to the loan of 100,000 dollars, stated in the supplemental report,

50,000 000

4. There has been obtained a temporary loan, from the Farmer's Bank of Virginia, to pay a warrant of the War Department in favor of the govern-

ment of Virginia, for militia expenses during the war,

150,000 00

200,000 00

21,993,642 14

But the floating debt has been diminished since the 12th of February, 1816, in the following manner:—

1. By the subscription of treasury notes to the 6 per cent. loan of 1815, as above stated,

318,675 52

2. By funding treasury notes at par, for 6 per cent. stock, as above stated,

9,200 31

3. By funding small treasury notes, for 7 per cent. stock as above stated,

4,289,089 00

4. By the payment in treasury notes, of duties and taxes, estimated to have amounted in treasury notes, bearing interest, to the sum of

7,217,853 58

In small treasury notes,

150,000 00

5. By the repayment of temporary loans, to wit:—

To the Banks of Columbia, on account of the public buildings,

225,000 00

To the State of New-York, on account of militia, (principal,)

350,000 00

To the Farmer's Bank of Virginia, (principal,)

150,000 00

12,709,818 41

Estimated amount of the whole of the floating debt at this time,

†9,283,794 00

A more general view of the issues and reimbursements of treasury notes, has been presented by the Register, to show the amount outstanding on the 1st of August, 1816, from which it appears:

1. That the issues have been under the acts of Congress, of June 30, 1812, 5,000,000 00  
February 25, 1813, 5,000,000 00  
March 4, 1814, 10,000,000 00  
Dec. 26, 1814, 8,318,400 00  
Feb. 25, 1815—

Notes bearing interest, 4,422,400 00

Small notes, without

interest, 3,392,994 00

7,815,394 00

Total amount of the issues of treasury notes,

36,133,791 00

†Outstanding treasury notes,  
Temporary loans,

8,733,794 00

550,000 00

9,283,794 00

2. That the reimbursements by payments where the notes became due, by subscriptions to the loan of 1815, and by satisfying duties and taxes, have amounted to

29,467,407 16

Deduct estimated amount of interest included therein,

2,067,407 16

27,400,000 00

Leaving an outstanding balance of treasury notes of every denomination, on the 1st of August 1816, amounting to the sum of

8,733,794 00

The amount reimbursed as above stated, including interest, being \$29,467,407 16, consists of treasury notes, cancelled, including interest, and in a course of cancelment at the treasury, amounting to 12,904,986 00

And of treasury notes, including interest, deposited in the several Banks to the credit of the Treasurer, as appears from his statement,

16,562,421 16

29,467,407 16

The balance of \$8,733,794 00 exclusive of interest thereon, is still subject to reductions, for the amount of treasury notes in the hands of collectors and receivers, not deposited in the Banks on the 1st of August, 1816. There can, therefore, be no doubt, that during the five subsequent months of the present year, the whole of the floating public debt in treasury notes, as well as in temporary loans, will be extinguished, agreeably to the anticipations which were expressed upon that subject.

From the preceding estimates it appears, that, at this time, the aggregate amount of the public debt is the sum of \$120,159,482 55, consisting of the following items:

1. Funded public debt before the late war, 37,779,274 32

2. Funded public debt, contracted since the war, 73,096,414 23

3. Floating public debt, outstanding, 9,283,791 00

123,630,692 93

The aggregate amount of the public debt, as estimated on the 13th of February, 1816, being the sum of

123,630,692 93

The aggregate reduction since that period, amounts to the sum of

3,471,210 38

The funded public debt will, unavoidably, be augmented as long as the disordered state of the currency shall compel the treasury to make any of its payments in small treasury notes, fundable at seven per cent.; and the necessity of issuing treasury notes, bearing interest, from the same cause, will also, in some degree, augment the funded debt, while it retards the extinguishment of the floating debt, for which the revenue is otherwise ample. To render the funds of the treasury as active as possible, however, they have been applied to pay off the temporary loans, by anticipa-

tion: those obtained in Boston and Maine, making together 550,000 dollars, being the only loans for which the local currency could not be provided. It would have been desirable, indeed, to have employed some of the public funds in the purchase of the public stock, where it had fallen below par; but, upon examination, it was found, that the appropriation for the sinking fund did not admit of that operation:

For, the balance of the appropriation of the preceding year, applicable to the sinking fund, and remaining on the 1st of January, 1816, was

4,630,381 42

And the appropriation for the year 1816, was

8,000,000 00

12,630,381 42

Of which there was expended to the 30th of June, 1816, 9,354,762 62

And the probable demand to the 1st of January, 1817, inclusive, is

4,218,360 00

13,573,122 62

Leaving a deficit which must be supplied as soon as the next session of Congress opens, amounting to

942,701 20

Another item will be added to the public debt, by the creation of the five per cent. stock, in payment for the shares held by the government, in the capital of the bank of the United States. And it may be proper to bring into view the Mississippi stock, created upon the settlement of what are usually called the "Yazoo Claims," amounting on the 30th of Aug. 1816, to the sum of \$4,241,725 80. It will be observed, however, that the five per cent. stock is, in effect, an exchange for another capital, producing, probably, a higher rate of interest; and that the Mississippi stock bears no interest, and is only eventually reimbursable out of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands.

For the payment of the interest both of the old and new debt, and for the reimbursement of the instalment of the principal of the old debt, due on the 1st of October next, provision has been made by the treasury. Remittances have, also, been made to the bankers of the United States in London and Amsterdam, for the payment of the interest on the Louisiana stock, payable at those places, respectively, on the 1st of July, 1816, and the 1st of January, 1817. And, so far as depends upon this department, funds have been supplied to meet all the demands upon the government of the United States, on the various general accounts, which are open there.

For the interest on the Louisiana stock:

For foreign intercourse, including the diplomatic fund.

For the maintenance of prisoners of war; and

For the support of American seamen in foreign countries.

4. *Of the Miscellaneous business of the Department.*

The several important objects confided to the department, independent of its merely fiscal duties, have received attention. Without entering into a minute enumeration of them, the following are proper to be selected for notice.

1. *The survey of the Coast.* The necessary instruments having been procured, Mr. Hassler has been employed as the superintendent of the work,

upon the principles and terms stated in his letter of instructions dated the 3d of August, 1816.

2. *The road from Cumberland to the Ohio.* The course of the road having been confirmed by the President from Cumberland to Uniontown, thence to Brownsville, thence through Washington and Alexandria to Wheeling, colonel Elie Williams has been employed to survey and locate the road from Brownsville to Wheeling, as well as to examine the deviations which have been made by Mr. Shriver, from the route originally proposed by the commissioners. Several plans have also been suggested for dividing the road into sections, and for expediting the work. But, the difficulties which have arisen, require immediate care and attention; and may be traced in the correspondence between the department and colonel Williams and Mr. Shriver.

3. *The Custom house establishments.* The 8th section of the act of the 30th of April, 1816, has appropriated \$250,000 for custom house establishments, upon a suggestion by this department to the committee of ways and means, with a view to the accommodation of the five principal commercial cities—to wit: Boston, N. York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Charleston. The only establishment previously owned by the government was the custom-house at New-Orleans. From the correspondence with the respective collectors, and reports which have been made to the President, it will appear,

That the purchase of a custom-house at Boston has cost	\$29,000 00
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That a purchase has been authorized at New-York, at a price not exceeding	55,000 00
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That a purchase has been authorized at Philadelphia at a price, for the site and the buildings to be erected, which will probably amount to	65,000 00
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149,000 00

That a negotiation has taken place with the trustees for building an exchange at Baltimore, who offer to erect and convey to the government a suitable establishment, being part of the exchange, for	70,000 00
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And that a site and building may be purchased at Charleston, for the sum of	50,000 00
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But, the appropriation only amounts to	269,000 00
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to	250,000 00
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Leaving a deficit of	19,000 00
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Upon this statement, it is proposed to suspend the purchase at Baltimore, until an additional appropriation can be obtained; but to complete the purchase of the establishments in New-York, Philadelphia, and Charleston, upon an enlarged scale, more adequate to the growing commerce of those cities.

4. *The Legislative calls for information.*—Several resolutions were passed during the last session of Congress, requiring information at the next session upon various subjects; and arrangements have been made to enable the Department to report. The resolutions and correspondence on file will furnish the particulars.

5. *The case of Hoyt vs. Gelston et al.*—In consequence of instructions issued from the Treasury

Department, by authority of the President, the Collector and Surveyor of the port of New-York seized the ship called "The American Eagle," under the charge of being illegally armed and equipped within the United States, for the purpose of waging hostilities against a friendly foreign power. Upon a trial in the District Court of New-York, the vessel was ordered to be restored, and the judge refused to grant a certificate that there was a probable cause of seizure. The owner brought an action of trespass against the seizing officers, in the State Court, and recovered damages to the amount of \$107,369 43. The cause has been transferred by order of the President, from the court of errors, in New-York, to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it is now depending for a final judgment; and, probably, the judgment will be rendered at February term next. As the collector and surveyor acted in obedience to their orders, they appear to be entitled to an indemnity from the government. The subject was, therefore, submitted to the committee of Ways and Means, at the last session; and a report was made by the committee in favor of the proposed indemnity. It is important that the report should be taken up and decided, early in the next session. All the facts and proceedings in the case may be traced in the report of this Department to the Senate, during the session ending in 1815; and in the report made to the committee of Ways and Means, during the session ending in 1816.

6. *The Direct Tax of Georgia.*—The Legislature of Georgia assumed the quota of the direct tax, imposed upon that state for 1816; but the governor did not give notice of the assumption, within the period prescribed by law, although the amount of the tax was remitted to the Treasury in certain drafts, before the day fixed for paying it, in order to entitle the state to the abatement of 15 per cent. Under these circumstances, the gross amount of the quota has been paid into the Treasury, subject to the relief which Congress may hereafter provide.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. J. DALLAS.

Treasury Department, Sept. 20, 1816.

#### POSTSCRIPT.

The Secretary of the Treasury has the honor to add, that certain occurrences happening since the foregoing Report was presented, merit observation:

1st. The situation of the public credit and resources at Boston, has enabled the Treasury to discharge the loan of \$500,000, long due to the State Bank, in the following manner:

By a draft for cash, amounting to	\$130,000
By a draft for Treasury Notes of the new emission, bearing interest at their par value,	370,000
	\$500,000

2d. The situation of the Treasury has authorized an additional notice for the payment of Treasury Notes payable in New-York.

3d. The existing prospect justifies an expectation that the Treasury will be able to pay all its engagements in the eastern States, with the local currency, before the expiration of the present year.

(Signed) A. J. DALLAS.

Treasury Department, Sept. 30, 1816.



## MARYLAND.

## MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR TO THE LEGISLATURE.

In Council, Annapolis, Dec. 4, 1816.

*Gentlemen*.—We have the honor to inform you, that in pursuance of the powers vested in this department by a resolution of the last general assembly, we have ceded to the general government the exclusive right of jurisdiction in and over the ground and territory on which Forts M'Henry and Washington are erected.

The resolution appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars to defray the expense of collecting the public arms, being found to be wholly inadequate to the object, we have thought it advisable to refer the subject to your reconsideration.

The resolution appropriating money for the purchase of arms having been rescinded by the late general assembly, we are under the necessity of referring to you the claim of Mr. J. Joseph Henry, for rifles, delivered since the repeal of the resolution, under a contract entered into during its existence, with this department.

We herewith enclose sundry resolutions from the States of Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Tennessee.

We should submit to your consideration the propriety of taking steps for liquidating, at an early day, the State's claim against the general government for the expenses incurred by the late war. For this purpose it will be necessary to appoint an agent, to exhibit and attend to the settlement of these claims. We deem it of primary importance, that this subject should receive your early attention, as it must be within the recollection of the general assembly, that the revenue of the State was found to be insufficient for the discharge of military claims and expenses, and that recourse was had by loan to meet extraordinary disbursements rendered necessary for defence. It is hoped that the claim against the general government will receive the attention due to it from Congress, and that the provision which they shall make for its payment will furnish the means of redeeming this loan. Should this just expectation fail, it rests with the wisdom of the general assembly to provide the necessary means for its redemption. We deem it to be our duty to bring to the notice of the general assembly the situation of the claims of the State against individuals. By former resolutions the Executive was authorized to take whatever steps were deemed necessary, in order to recover or secure them. For obvious reasons, it is impossible for this department to attend to this duty; and for want of proper attention to it, considerable sums, which might be recovered, are lost every year. We take leave, therefore, to recommend the appointment of an officer, whose business it shall be to collect, or otherwise secure, such claims. We deem it proper to suggest, for your consideration, the necessity of a revision and amendment of the militia laws of this State. It is at all times important to have an efficient and practicable system, and it has been clearly shown, by late experience, that the provisions of the present system are so radically defective, that the law is but a dead letter.

We have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servants,

C. RIDGLEY, of Hampton.

The Hon. the President of the Senate,  
and the Hon. the Speaker of the  
House of Delegates.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

## SENATE.

*Friday Dec. 6.*—The house considered the motion for amending its rules by appointing standing committees for the regular subjects of legislation at the commencement of each session. Some debate took place on the motion of Mr. Barbour for adding to the number of standing committees, one on the subject of roads and canals. He withdrew his motion, and the subject was postponed until Monday.

*Monday, Dec. 9.*—The President of the Senate made report of a plan to enforce the annual settlement of accounts.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the motion made by Mr. Varnum on the 20th inst. in the following words:

"Resolved, That it is expedient to repeal a law passed at the last session of Congress, entitled

"An act to change the mode of compensation to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Delegates from territories," and that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. Tait to amend the same by striking out from the word "*that*" in the first line, the whole of the resolution, and inserting in lieu thereof "a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying the law passed at the last session of Congress, entitled "an act to change the mode of compensation to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Delegates from territories," with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

[The object of this motion being to deprive the resolve of its positive character, and make it a motion for inquiry only.]

The question on Mr. Tait's motion was decided affirmatively as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Ashmun, Barbour, Brown, Campbell, Chace, Condit, Dagget, Fromentin, Gaillard, Hardin, Harvey, Hamell, Hunter, Laycock, Mason of New Hampshire, Mason of Virginia, Morrow, Roberts, Talbot, Tait, Thompson, Tichenor, Welis, Williams—24.

NAYS—Messrs. Macon, Ruggles, Sanford, Varnum, Wilson—5.

The resolve, as modified, was then committed.

*Tuesday, Dec. 10.*—Mr. Barbour offered resolutions for the appointment of the standing committees, which were agreed to. He then obtained leave to propose an amendment of the constitution of the United States, as follows:

"No law, varying the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives shall take effect until an election of Representatives shall have intervened."

*Wednesday, Dec. 11.*—Mr. Varnum presented instructions from the State of Massachusetts for procuring a repeal of the "compensation law."

Mr. Barbour's motion on that subject was read a second time and committed.

*Thursday, Dec. 12.*—House sat with closed doors.

*Friday, Dec. 13.*—The following committees were appointed by the house in pursuance of the resolution of the 10th instant.

*Committee of Foreign Relations*—Messrs. Barbour, Macon, King, Lacock and Dana.

*On Finance*—Messrs. Campbell, Mason of New Hampshire, Thompson, King and Troup.

*On Commerce and Manufactures*—Messrs. Hun-

ter, Sanford, Roberts, Campbell, and Mason of New Hampshire.

*On Military Affairs*—Messrs. Williams, Mason of Virginia, Troup, Condit and Hardin.

*On the Militia*—Messrs. Varnum, Tichenor, Lacock, Mason of Virginia, and Williams.

*On Naval Affairs*—Messrs. Tait, Howell, Sanford, Fromentin and Daggett.

*On the Public Lands*—Messrs. Morrow, Brown, Taylor, Noble and Goldsborough.

*Committee of Claims*—Messrs. Roberts, Wilson, Goldsborough, Tichenor, and Mason of Virginia.

*On the Judiciary*—Messrs. Chace, Talbot, Daggett, Hunter and Tait.

*On the Post-office and Post Roads*—Messrs. Wilson, Ashmun, Thompson, Talbot and Chace.

*On Pensions*—Messrs. Howell, Varnum, Condit, Wells and Roberts.

The Senate occupied the remainder of the public sitting of the day in distributing to their standing committees the various subjects recommended to their consideration by the message of the President, except the following, which were specially committed, viz:

*On an additional Executive Department and the Office of Attorney General*—Messrs. Macon, Sanford, Williams, Daggett, and Mason of New Hampshire.

*On Weights and Measures*—Messrs. Morrow, King and Ruggles.

*On a National University*—Messrs. Brown, Daggett, Mason of New Hampshire, Condit and Goldsborough.

*On Roads and Canals*—Messrs. Horsey, Morrow, Lacock, Ashmun and Fromentin.

*On the Slave Trade*—Messrs. Horsey, Ruggles, Tait, Hardin and Daggett.

*Monday, Dec. 16.*—Mr. Varnum's motion respecting the establishment of a branch of the United States' bank in the District of Columbia was modified into an inquiry of its expediency, and agreed to.

Mr. Daggett presented a petition for laying out certain public squares of the City into building lots.

The Rev. S. E. Dwight of Connecticut was chosen Chaplain of the House; Mr. Glendy having declined.

*Tuesday, Dec. 17.*—A motion of Mr. Williams, submitted yesterday, for instructing the judiciary committee relative to Indian affairs was agreed to.

A motion of Mr. Lacock was agreed to for instructing the same committee as to the establishment of a district court of the United States at Pittsburg.

A motion of Mr. Sanford was referred relative to the reports of the Secretaries of the Departments on the settlement of public accounts.

*Wednesday, Dec. 18.*—On motion of Mr. Morrow, a resolution was adopted, directing the committee of public lands to inquire into the expediency of reprinting the collection of land laws of the United States, with all additions passed since the last revision.

On motion of Mr. Sanford, it was resolved, that the secretary of the treasury be directed to lay before the senate a statement of all the moneys which have been collected by virtue of the laws for the relief of sick and disabled seamen; a statement of the expenditure and application of those moneys, comprehending the objects of expenditure, and a general view of the administration of that fund; and also such information as he may possess tending to show how far the moneys col-

lected under the laws now in force are sufficient or insufficient for the relief of sick and disabled seamen of the United States.

The resolution offered on Monday by Mr. Mason of Va. for the appointment of a standing committee on the subject of the District of Columbia, was taken up and agreed to; and Messrs. Mason of Virginia, Goldsborough, Macon, Daggett and Stokes were appointed to compose the committee.

*Thursday, Dec. 19.*—The house was occupied to-day with executive business, transacted, as usual, in conclave.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Friday, Dec. 13.*—Among the petitions, one was presented from some of the citizens of Maryland, praying a prohibition of the exportation of grain, in consequence of an apprehension of scarcity there.

Mr. Lowndes of South Carolina, (committee of ways and means) delivered a report and bill upon the subject of tonnage duties. For the report see public documents. The bill will be given when passed.

Mr. Hopkinson, Pa. (committee on the judiciary) delivered a report and bill to establish an "uniform bankrupt law." This, he observed, had become necessary in consequence of the courts in some of the States having decided that the laws in each State, relative to insolvency, had no operation beyond the limits of the respective States that had enacted them. The bill was read and committed.

Mr. Johnson of Kentucky reported a bill for making "donations of land to the disbanded officers of the late army."

Mr. Hardin of Ky. proposed a resolution for repealing the "excise on spirits." He thought that expensive plans of public improvement and generosity should not be adopted under the present burdens of taxation.

Mr. Lowndes observed, that people were mistaken as to the disposable surplus in the Treasury, and that the present taxes would be found necessary for the present demands.

Mr. Hardin's motion was laid on the table.

Mr. Forsyth again called up the question relative to the commissioner of claims. After much warm debate the resolution was again laid on the table.

Mr. Graham, acting Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the last session of Congress, reported a plan for "classing and arming the militia, and calling them forth to execute the laws of the Union, &c. When the bill shall have received its final modifications we shall publish it entire. It proposes to divide the militia into three classes: the *minor* to consist of those between the ages of 18 and 21, the *junior* of those between 21 and 31, and the *senior* of those between 31 and 45. Different blank periods are assigned for the terms of service to which the different classes are liable. The minor and junior classes only to be subject to muster, &c. Other general regulations are then proposed with regard to arming, clothing, marching, discipline, police, &c.

*Monday, Dec. 16.*—Some unimportant private bills were reported.

Mr. Calhoun made a motion "That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of setting apart the bonus, and the net annual proceeds of the national bank, as a permanent fund for internal improvement."

He referred to a similar motion which had been

made last session, and opposed by him on account of the state of the bank and of public affairs. He thought the present a more favourable time for attending to the subject. The motion was agreed to *nem. con.*

A motion was made by Mr. Little, of Maryland, relative to the establishment of a post road from Baltimore to New-Windsor.

Some other private motions were submitted.

A bill for the relief of Luther Bingham passed two readings, and was ordered to be engrossed.

A bill that had been reported by the committee of ways and means, for the modification of tonnage duties, passed without debate through the committee of the whole, and was ordered to be engrossed.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, of Maryland, to instruct for an inquiry, &c. relative to the expediency of a repeal of the duties on banks, &c. The motion was agreed to *nem. con.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 17.**—Mr. Yancey (committee of claims) reported a bill to repeal part of the act authorizing the payment for property lost, captured, or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, &c. in consequence of the recommendation of the President. The bill proposes, 1st. the repeal of the 1st, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th sections of the act. 2d. That all claims shall be decided by the additional accountant of the war department. 3d. That legal evidence shall always be required. And lastly, that all the claims to be admitted must be approved by the secretary of war. Referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Johnson (committee on military affairs) reported a bill making provision for the invalids of the revolutionary war; the widows and children of the militia. The bill went to apply the provisions of the late pensionary acts, to the officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war. The 2d and 3d sections were to provide for the widows and children of the militia, who died in the public service, or on their return home, or of diseases contracted in the service, under certain circumstances. The bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. Herbert reported a bill to incorporate the Columbian Insurance Company of Alexandria.

A motion was made by Mr. Hardin, Ky. and some discussion took place about a call upon Mr. O'Neale, for papers given to him by the Clerk of the House through mistake, and said to be necessary for an examination of claims against the United States for a vessel destroyed. The motion was withdrawn.

The House, on motion of Mr. Pickens, resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the subject of an amendment to the United States' constitution, to establish a uniform mode of electing representatives and electors. The committee after some debate rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. [We shall publish an outline of the speeches as soon as the discussion may be finished.] House adjourned.

**Wednesday, Dec. 18.**—Several petitions were received and committed; and a bill was reported by Mr. Lowndes, of S. C. for the discharge of John Ricaud, late paymaster of the army, from imprisonment.

Mr. Johnson, Ky. (committee on the compensation bill) delivered a report, which we shall publish in due time. The principle of the proposed alteration is to allow a certain sum *per day*.

Mr. Johnson moved to have the subject made the order of the day on the 2d Monday of Janua-

ry, as the House was usually thin during the holidays.

Mr. Nelson, Va. objected to that delay, and moved to take it up to-morrow. Mr. Barbour expressed the same wish, and thought the subject had been sufficiently discussed, and that it would require as little time to repeal the law as they had taken to pass it.

Messrs. Grosvenor, Calhoun, Robertson, Herbert, and Pickering, spoke in favor of allowing a distant day, on account of the importance of the matter. Mr. Gaston proposed the first Monday in January. Mr. Johnson's motion upon the 2d Monday was carried by a large majority.

*The Epervier.*—Mr. Taylor, N. Y. offered for consideration the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the committee on naval affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the settlement of the accounts of the officers and crew of the United States brig *Epervier*, supposed to have been lost at sea.

Mr. Taylor observed, that as the last ray of hope, of the return of that vessel, had long ago become extinct in the bosoms of the friends of the officers and crew, and as Mr. W. Bostwick, the purser, a young man of great merit, appeared as a defaulter on the books of the navy department, because his accounts lay with himself at the bottom of the sea, and as that department could not settle them without legislative interference, he had offered the proposition.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Caldwell, Ohio, moved for an inquiry for the formation of a road from Wheeling through Ohio State.

The resolution was referred to the standing committee on roads and canals.

Mr. Pickens' motion relative to the amendments of the constitution was again taken up.

After some debate the question was taken on the first part of his proposition, in the following words:

"For the purpose of choosing representatives in the Congress of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of representatives to which the State may be entitled.

"Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, equal numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.

"In each district the qualified voters shall elect one representative."

And decided as follows:

For the clause,	86
Against it,	38

So that more than the constitutional majority of two thirds decided in favour of this part of Mr. Pickens' proposition.

**Thursday, Dec. 19.**—The speaker laid before the house a report of the acting secretary of War, on the petition of Robert Sewal, relative to the destruction of his house in Washington City by the British. It was referred to the committee of the whole, as was the report of the committee of claims relative to the sufferers on Niagara frontier.

Several petitions for pensions &c. were presented.

Mr. Scott offered resolutions for establishing public land offices at Arkansas and the town of Jackson at Girardeau—and for providing by law for leasing and working the public Salines. The resolution was adopted.



Mr. P. P. Barbour of Va. moved the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the propriety of so amending or explaining the 4th section of the act for designating, surveying and granting, military bounty lands, passed on the 6th of May, 1812, as to authorize a devisee of said bounty lands, though no patent shall have been granted therefor, at the time of his devise.

Mr. B. observed that the object of the section was to prevent soldiers from sacrificing their lands, but its operation went also to prevent them from conveying it by will to any except the heirs at law, which could not have been the intention of the act.

The resolution was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Scott, it was resolved to instruct the committee on the public lands with regard to a law for regulating the leasing, &c. of the Missouri lead mines.

On motion of Mr. Pope, of Illinois, it was resolved to call on the committee on Indian affairs for a general statement of the measures that had been adopted towards those tribes, &c. and also, as to the expediency of providing a law to prevent foreigners from trading with them.

Mr. Forsyth remarked that an act of the last session provided for this subject; but Mr. Pope replied, that it gave the government a dispensing power which ought not to exist. After some general observations, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Taylor, N. Y. after remarking that a bill had passed the Senate during the last session, and had not been acted on by this House, proposed:

"That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a reporter to the supreme court of the United States."

The resolve was agreed to.

After one or two other unimportant motions the House took up the order of the day on Mr. Pickens' motion for an amendment of the constitution. The digest of the debate shall appear hereafter.

Mr. Powell has offered a resolution in the legislature of Pennsylvania, to instruct their Senators and request their Representatives in Congress, to endeavor to procure such an amendment to the federal constitution as, discarding the medium of electors, will restore to the people the immediate and direct election of President and Vice-President of the United States. This proposed amendment is such as ought to be approved by every republican: it is founded upon the orthodox principle that no power, which can be conveniently exercised by the people themselves, ought to be delegated to a few. It has been justly remarked that a whole nation may err, but cannot be corrupted; a few electors, however, may be both mistaken and corrupted; they may abuse the confidence of the people, and violate their pledge to support the candidates whom the people approve. Even if they always vote in accordance with the public will, that will had better be expressed at once, and finally, without the useless form of delegating its expression to a select few in nineteen or twenty different electoral colleges.—*Balt. Pat.*

*Finances of Georgia.*—It appears by the abstract of the Treasurer, as submitted to the legislature, that on the 31st of October last there remained in the treasury in cash \$65,866; in good bonds, ex-

clusive of those set apart for the redemption of the public debt, \$152,539; and in United States' treasury notes \$7,900; being in all \$226,305. In addition to this sum the State holds bank stocks on which \$202,000 have been paid; and there is, due to Georgia from the national government for western territory \$936,558; a third of which is ready for payment: amounting in the whole to \$1,364,863. There is yet owing on the bank shares owned by the State \$550,000, (of which \$258,000 must be immediately paid;) and of the money in the treasury \$64,000 were received for bonds to redeem the public debt, which, of course, cannot be again appropriated; making \$614,000, soon to be expended, and leaving seven hundred and fifty thousand, eight hundred and sixty-three dollars, to be applied to such public uses as the legislature may hereafter think proper.—*Geo. Journal.*

*Georgia Sugar.*—Many persons being impressed with the idea that this sugar is not susceptible of being refined, we have the satisfaction of stating that it not only can, but has been brought to a state of perfection, little, if any inferior to foreign sugars.—*Wash. Gaz.*

*Substitute for Coffee.*—Mr. Levrat, a celebrated French chemist at Chatillon, has discovered that the seed of the yellow water flag of marshes, known to botanists by the name of *iris pseudacorus*, when dried by heat and freed from the friable shell which envelopes it; and then infused like coffee, produces a beverage similar to coffee; but much superior both in regard to taste and flavor.

Northampton, (Mass.) Dec. 11.

*Damaged Corn.*—We state for the information of those who are in the habit of feeding their Cattle with the poor and injured corn, which did not come to maturity this year, owing to the early frosts, that several valuable Cows and many young cattle have died in this town, the past week, which had been fed on this kind of food—and the milk and cream of others which have survived, is so offensive as to be unfit for use.

*Destruction among Sheep.*—The people of La Plata often use sheep for fuel, because wood and coal are very scarce, or not to be found in certain districts. In some parts of this (New-York) State, we are informed that sheep are used to fatten hogs; the skin and fleece being taken off, &c. the carcass is boiled and thrown to the swine! It is a strange state of things in which our swine fare as sumptuously as the Prince Regent of England, or even Louis le Desire himself with all his "capons," &c. as mentioned by lord Nelson, his brother, &c.

Sheep, owing to the scarcity of fodder, are sold off at 7s. a head; so that they are cheaper than corn at two dollars per bushel. Let us hope that of the Merino's "a remnant shall be saved" from the butcher's knife. For such a season as the past may not occur for a full century.—*Col.*

A Dentist in Glasgow, (Ireland,) we understand, has invented a mineral composition for Artificial Teeth, which resists the strongest acids.

#### FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

##### FOREIGN.

There have been no arrivals carrying foreign dates further than those stated in our last number. The Dublin Evening Post states that in Europe there

is an avidity to assist the independent party of Buenos Ayres, which has been generated partly by the grievous oppression to which Spain has exposed her colonies, and partly by those mercenary interests which have their full share in transactions of the kind. An armed schooner of considerable strength has been fitted out in a port of Europe, equipped with every necessary for action and enterprise, which is immediately proceeding to the river Plate for the purpose of being sold to the independent government.

The patriots are said to be every where successful, and that a vessel was about to sail from Port au Prince to carry Bolivar to the Maine, where he was about to resume the command of the patriot troops.

*Extract from a letter received by a respectable gentleman in this town, dated Buenos Ayres, Sept. 12.*

"There will be great rejoicing here in a few days on account of the INDEPENDENCE of these united provinces, which has been recently declared in great state; but the minds of these patriots are so unsettled that it is uncertain how long it will be ere another revolution takes place; there is no danger, however, of its coming into the hands of old Spain again. This market is in a most horrid state, and glutted with every kind of produce and merchandise—European, Indian, and from the United States. Even the most staple article will scarcely bring cost and charges, and no profit whatever will arise from the returns."—*Newburyport Herald.*

*Extract of a letter from Paris.*

"The late accounts from South America, which have appeared in the French papers, make considerable sensation here. They have given rise to a report of Joseph, Bonaparte's brother, being called to the throne of Mexico. The success of Humbert and his companions, who are represented as the leaders there of a numerous army, produce a general wish in the French officers on half pay to emigrate to that country. The editors of all the French papers have, in consequence, received orders to make no further insertions relating to the events in South America."—*Dublin Paper.*

The Hydra troop ship, 11 days from St. Johns, (N. E.) which arrived at Halifax Nov. 29, brought a report that a transport, having on board 500 troops, had been cast away, and nearly 200 souls perished.

"The number of deaths at Havanna, from Nov. 1 to 19, was 219; the greatest number in one day 21—smallest 6."

Petion, the President of Hayti for life, is allowed by the constitution of that republic a salary of forty thousand dollars per annum.

*Chemical preventive against thieves and house robbers.*—A chemist in London has prepared the following ingenious method for securing shops and houses against the depredation of the night plunderer: "Let prepared packets of fulminating silver be placed round windows and doors likely to be assailed by robbers, every night, and removed every morning; and should any attack be made, or any of those windows or doors be forced open, the consequent explosion of the fulminating powder would serve at once to alarm the robbers, and awaken the inmates to a sense of their danger. Mr. Accum of Crompton street, London, is said to have prepared fulminating silver, made up in various safe forms, to be used for the purpose here mentioned.

A German journalist calculates that there are

34,000 inhabitants and 54 booksellers at Leipsic; and at Paris 580,000 inhabitants and 320 booksellers; which gives at Leipsic a bookseller to every 529 inhabitants, and at Paris one for every 1,822 inhabitants; to this is to be added, that Paris is the only place in France where the bookselling trade is carried on.

#### DOMESTIC.

The papers are almost as barren of home news, except as relates to legislative matters, as they have for some time been of foreign news. Through the cities there are general complaints of robberies and other crimes, and calls for improved police, too numerous to be unattended to, or to be detailed here. In New-Orleans, it is said, they have among them the pirates and robbers of Grand Isle and Matagorda; and at Philadelphia and Baltimore some of those swindlers and house-breakers that have for some time been annoying the northern cities.

The statement in our last of A. C. Hanson having been elected to the Senate of the United States was premature. He was elected on the 18th inst. by a majority of 7 over Winder.

The republican convention at Boston have nominated gen. H. Dearborn for the governor of Massachusetts, in consequence of Mr. Wm. Gray having declined that honor. Mr. Wm. King is nominated for lieutenant governor.

The Senate of the United States has confirmed the appointment of William Lee, late consul at Bordeaux, to be accountant of the war department.

Col. Andrew Pickens is elected governor for the State of South Carolina, and gen. John A. Cuthbert lieutenant governor.

General Villere has been declared by the legislature of Louisiana to be their next governor, by a majority of 43 to 3 votes over judge Lewis.

The boiler of the new Elizabethtown steam boat burst when just about to set off on its first voyage. Several persons were much injured.

The officers and crew of the schooner Komp of Baltimore, who were tried before the federal court of Richmond for the crime of piracy, were all acquitted last Saturday.

*New-York, Dec. 14.*—We understand that the brig *True Blooded Yankee*, which sailed this morning for Savannah, is well armed, and has a crew of about one hundred and fifty men. A tolerable crew for so short a voyage. At any rate, she will run very little hazard of being captured by any Carthaginian privateer.

*Petersburg, Dec. 7.*—About twenty members of the new French colonial society, who were seen here these few days past, embarked on Sunday morning last to explore a suitable tract of land for the culture of the sugar, the cotton and the vine. Among them were a number of gentlemen of high rank and distinction, both civil and military; and it is with pleasure that we announce that the greatest harmony existed among them.

On Saturday last (says the Petersburg Intelligencer) the most splendid and brilliant entertainment ever witnessed in Virginia was given by the city of Richmond to general Scott. Thomas Wilson, Esq. the mayor of the city, presided. Gen. Scott sat upon his right, and governor Preston upon his left.

*Mississippi Territory.*—It appears from the census lately taken, that the total population of the Mississippi Territory is 75,746. Of this number 30,504 are slaves.